



CONGRESSMAN BOB MENENDEZ

Chairman of the Democratic Caucus 109TH CONGRESS

In his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Bob Menendez, who represents New Jersey's 13th Congressional District along the Hudson River and overlooking the Statue of Liberty, has made a stellar and rapid rise to the highest levels of influence in the U.S. House, and the highest levels of prominence in American political life. Today, Bob Menendez is the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, re-elected to a second term by his colleagues on November 17, 2004.

In that post, Bob Menendez is the 3rd-ranking Democrat in the House, the highest ranking Hispanic in Congressional history, and the only Hispanic ever elected to a leadership position, in either chamber, by either party. In addition to being the first Democratic House Member from New Jersey elected to a Leadership post, he is also the youngest member of the elected Democratic Leadership. Previously, Menendez served two consecutive terms as the Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

During the 107th Congress, his nationally-recognized leadership also earned him appointments as Chairman of both the Democratic Task Force on Education and the Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security, an appointment also made in recognition of the effects September 11th has had on his Congressional District, which is right across the Hudson River from Manhattan and Ground Zero.

Working with the Homeland Security Task Force, Congressman Menendez introduced the Bioterrorism Protection Act (BioPAct) and the United States Security Act (the USA Act) to ensure our nation has the resources and tools it needs to respond to, and, most importantly, prevent acts of terrorism -- from protecting our borders, to improving Intelligence, to increasing transportation security, to keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of our enemies.

Menendez also served on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, which created the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In the 108th Congress, Leader Pelosi appointed him to the conference committee on the Intelligence reform bill, where the differences between the House and Senate versions were resolved. He was a key negotiator in securing passage of this landmark legislation that implements the unanimous and bipartisan recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to protect the American people from future terrorist attacks.

Internationally, Bob Menendez is a vocal advocate for human rights. For his tireless work in this area, he was awarded the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1998. He currently serves as the Ranking Democratic Member of the Western Hemisphere

Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, where he continues that work.

As a senior Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he has been one of the leading proponents in Congress for investing in our transportation hubs, infrastructure, and ports as a means to expand commerce and create jobs. In particular, the Congressman's work has been widely credited with keeping shipping business in the United States at a time of increased competition from Canadian ports.

Also a former State Assemblyman and State Senator -- where he was the author of New Jersey's landmark bias crime law, and New Jersey's telecommunications reform act -- and an attorney in private practice, Congressman Menendez received his B.A. from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, and his law degree from Rutgers University. He was raised in Union City and currently resides in Hoboken. He has two children, Robert and Alicia.